



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

August 17, 2006

Mayor Tom Barrett today released the following statement regarding funding for the State Crime lab:

“For months I have been asking the state to increase funding for the Crime Lab Forensic Analysis Unit.

At a press conference six months ago, I talked about how DNA evidence found on firearms could tell law enforcement the identity of the shooter and very possibly could help to determine who transferred the weapon to the shooter. In fact, the local U.S. Attorney now requires DNA testing on all firearms related to cases referred for prosecution. The State Crime lab performs the DNA for the U.S. Attorney.

No reasonable person can disagree that the backlog at the State Crime lab is keeping criminals on the streets and unnecessarily putting lives at risk. Resources are stretched thin and budgets are tight but we must adequately fund the forensic analysis needed to lock these thugs up and give the District Attorneys the tools they need for prosecution.”